**Observation at Clermont Northeastern Middle School - May 4, 2011 – 8.10 a.m – 8.52 a.m.**

Cold weather; 7th grade

There are 24 students in all in the class but only 23 are present. There are 9 boys and 14 girls present. All students are White with the exception of a girl who is Chinese. The students are seated in groups. There are 6 groups in all, with 5 groups of 4 students each and 1 group of 3 students. Group 1 consists of 2 boys and 2 girls; group 2 consists of 2 boys and 1 girl; group 3 consists of 1 boy and 3 girls; group 4 consists of 2 boys and 2 girls; group 5 consists of 2 boys and 2 girls, and group 6 consists of 4 girls. The lead teacher is female. A male substitute teacher is present in the class. Most of the time, his hands are in his pockets.

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| Time | Observations | Observers’ Comments |
| 8.10 | The lead teacher gives instructions to students telling them to narrow down their research question. She mentions about taking names of students in individual groups.  The substitute teacher talks to us (Iqbal and Uzma) and says he can be of help if required. | The lead teacher wants to keep track of students’ work for follow-up. |
| 8.15 | The lead teacher says to brainstorm a topic that will help solve an environmental problem for the school.  She moves from group to group and talks to the students.  After talking to every group, she walks around the class.  2 girls from group 6 lift their hands in the air but the lead teacher does not notice them and start talking to a group. | The lead teacher is dedicated to her work and wants her students to get the required support from her. |
| 8.20 | Most students talk about their topic to others in their respective group.  One boy from group 5 lifts a sheet of paper in the air to show the teacher. From far, it looks like a diagram. The lead teacher nods her head in a ‘yes’ manner.  She then walks to group 6 where the 2 girls had their hands in the air and listen to their ideas.  The substitute teacher who is standing in front of the class, moves toward this group and talks more with the students and gives them some details on what to focus on. |  |
| 8.25 | The substitute teacher walks to group 1 and talks to a girl, then walks to group 2 and talks to a boy. |  |
| 8.27 | The lead teacher spends a few minutes attending group 6 (more time than she spent with other groups).  She tries to move to another group but the students ask for more clarifications.  She responds, then moves to group 2, smiles when she looks at the students’ work on a sheet of paper, then moves to stand at the back of the class. | The students from group 6 are very hard-working. |
| 8.29 | A girl from group 3 walks to the lead teacher with her notebook which the teacher examines and gives suggestions to.  The lead teacher says to look for more information online and to examine all sides to save forests.  Other students of group 3 are silent and wait for the lead teacher’s suggestions to their friend.  Meanwhile, group 6 works very quietly on their topic. A boy from group 5 tells his friend “You are wasting time. Go away”. | The boy is angry and wants to continue working on the topic his group is working on. |
| 8.33 | Another female teacher comes in the class and talks to group 6, then group 5.  The lead teacher moves to the back of the class and gives a laptop to the girl from group 3 (the one with notebook).  Then she moves to group 6 and continues discussing about trashing being a problem. | This teacher is helping the lead and substitute teacher.  The lead teacher is concerned and shows interest in group 6’s work. |
| 8.35 | The substitute teacher asks us how the observation is going on and says he is available if we need help.  The two female teachers move to the back of the class and discuss quietly among themselves.  The substitute teacher walks to group 4, talks to the students and then laughs. |  |
| 8.38 | A girl from group 4 stands up and goes to throw something in a trash bin located in the right hand corner of the class.  The girl from group 3 (with the laptop) lifts her right hand in the air, looks at the teacher and waits for a few seconds, then lowers down her hand.  The teacher moves to her.  The second female teacher moves to group 2 where 1 boy had his right hand in the air. She talks to him, then moves to group 1, talks to the group members for a few seconds, after which she moves to group 5 and sees what the students are showing her from a book on ecology. |  |
| 8.40 | A girl from group 1 lifts her left hand in the air and the teacher moves to her and then gives her a laptop to work with.  The second female teacher leaves the class.  The lead teacher talks to group 2. A boy from the group lifts his right hand in the air; the teacher goes to him, then moves away and returns to give the group a laptop.  2 girls from group 6 have their hands in the air and the substitute teacher tells them to wait for the lead teacher. |  |
| 8.44 | The teacher uses the laptop with the girl from group 3, then moves to group 6. |  |
| 8.45 | The substitute teacher walks along the back of the class twice, then stops. All groups discuss quietly among themselves. | The students are interested in their respective topics. |
| 8.48 | The teacher announces winding down of the class session, says that there is 4 minutes for the class to be over, that students should do research at home, go online, brainstorm and bring other books to class.  She tells them to think ahead and to prepare themselves for the next lesson. | The lead teacher wants the students to be well knowledgeable in their chosen topic. |
| 8.50 | The substitute teacher tells the lead teacher that he is going and leaves the class. The teacher tells one of the students with a laptop not to log off. |  |
| 8.52 | The teacher tells the students that they need to move through the building very quietly when they are going to other classes. | The lead teacher wants the students to respect others in the building. |